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A New Record Relative to the Parasites of Pholus achemon Drury

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In the spring of 1924, at Wichita, Kansas, a tachinid, identified by Dr. Luther West as Frontina violenta Walk. was bred from Pholus achemon Drury.

Frontina violenta Walk. has been taken from Philampelus vitis L. and Vanessa antiopa L. while Sturmia distincta Wied. and Winthemia quadripustulata Fabr. have been taken from Pholus achemon Drury, but as far as we have been able to ascertain this is a new record. In the fall of 1923 the caterpillars of Pholus achemon Drury upon the woodbine were found to have fly eggs upon the skin of the last three or four segments. As we were not interested in parasites, but in moths, we attempted to remove these eggs. All but one specimen cleaned well. Each specimen was placed in a separate jar with dirt and leaves and pupated normally, including the one from which the fly eggs could not be removed.

In the spring of 1924, moths emerged in March from the jars in which the cleaned caterpillars had pupated. From the jar of the caterpillar which could not be cleaned, flies emerged. This emergence took place about four or five days after the moths made their emergence, and continued for about four days. When the emergence ceased we killed and mounted the flies and made an observation on the pupal case of the host. This case was found ruptured, and literally packed full with the pupal cases of the flies.

We have attempted to repeat this observation, but the laws of parasitism are in force and our host is on the decline. A few caterpillars are found, but these are either not parasited, or else another factor is at work. Harold Hefley of Norman, Oklahoma, has discovered a temperature-humidity relationship between the parasite Winthemia quadripustulata and its host Protoparce quinquefasciata, and as soon as specimens are abundant we hope to make similar investigations.